

Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2001-2002

Incidents Reported by Survivors Who Seek Help from Rape Crisis Programs

In Massachusetts an estimated 23% of women and 6% of men experience sexual assault in their lifetime.ⁱ

To respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) funds 18 local Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs) across Massachusetts, as well as a statewide Spanish language hotline. The information below is a summary of data collected by these programs over a one-year time period.

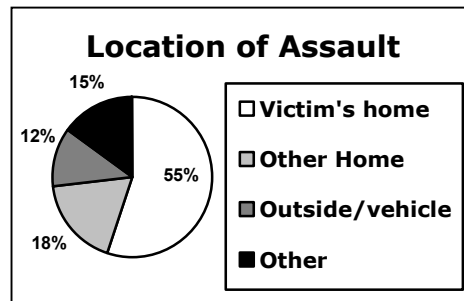
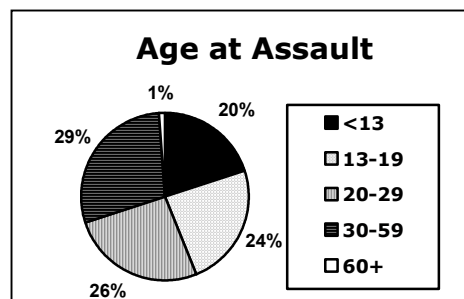
From July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, trained rape crisis counselors from MDPH-funded RCCs and the statewide Spanish language hotline **responded to over 13,000 hotline calls**; over 10,000 of these were from survivors.ⁱⁱ In addition to information on the number of hotline calls received, counselors also collect information on incidents of sexual assault that are reported to them during the course of providing services. RCCs and the statewide Spanish language hotline received 1,879 unduplicated reports of sexual assault. Of these reports, 1,229 were made directly by survivors. The data presented below details these reports from survivors only.

Among the survivors who reported to RCCs and the Spanish language hotline:

- **95%** were women;
- Age at the time of assault ranged from 1 year to 69 years;ⁱⁱⁱ
- **40%** of victims reported **injuries** in addition to the sexual assault, of 57% who provided information on additional injuries;
- **One third reported** having a **disability**, of 55% who provided information on disability status.

Circumstances of the assaults:

- **Weapons** were reported used in 13% of assaults, of 54% in which information was provided on weapon use;
- **Over half** of sexual assaults reported **occurred at the victim's home**, of 71% in which information was provided on location of assault.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Bureau of Family and Community Health ♦ Division of Violence and Injury Prevention

250 Washington Street, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 624-5463, (617) 624-5992 tty

<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/fch/violence/>

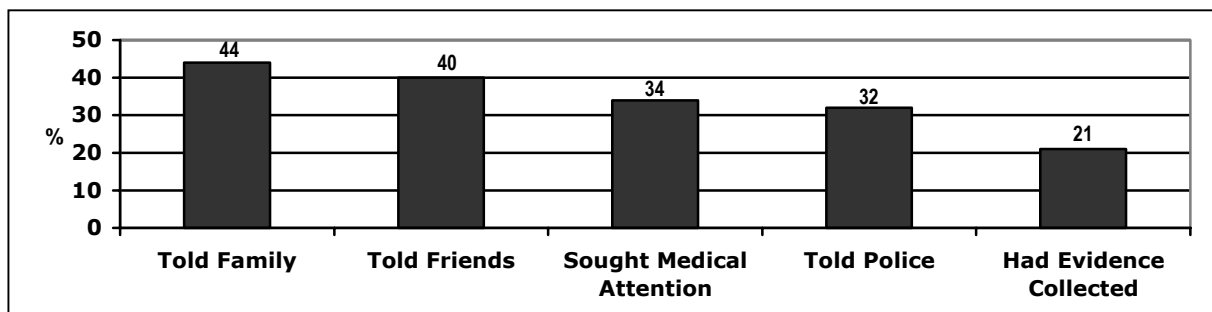
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Sexual Assault Perpetrators:

- **Someone known to the victim** committed over **80%** of reported assaults against survivors 13 years of age and older, and **95%** of reported assaults to survivors under 13 years old, of 83% of assaults in which information was provided on both age and perpetrator;
- **Current and former partners, dates, and boyfriend/girlfriends** committed over one third of reported assaults against survivors 13 years of age and older, while **parents, caretakers, siblings and other relatives** committed over two thirds of reported assaults against children under 13 years, of 83% of assaults in which information was provided on both age and perpetrator;
- **Men committed over 96% of reported sexual assaults**, of 88% of assaults in which information was provided on perpetrator gender.

Survivors who also sought other help:

- Some survivors **told family, friends, and/or police**, of 81% who provided information on reporting to others;
- **34%** sought **medical attention**, of 69% who provided information on medical attention;
- **21%** had **forensic evidence collected**, of 70% who provided information on evidence collection.



If you need help please contact your local rape crisis center. See attached list for resources.

Data Collection and Limitations

Data contained in this report are reported to Rape Crisis Centers by survivors. Providing support and information to survivors is a priority of RCC counselors, over data completion. For more information about sexual assault-related data, please see the Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/sapss/>.

ⁱ Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2000. Boston, Massachusetts: Health Survey Program, Division of Research and Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Department of Public Health.

ⁱⁱ Hotline services are provided for survivors, family and friends, and professionals for support and resource referrals. Survivors may call the Hotline multiple times or may prefer to discuss the assault in face-to-face counseling rather than on the hotline, thus the number of calls to the hotline is a measure of service use and is not a measure of sexual assault incidents reported to DPH-funded RCCs.

ⁱⁱⁱ Many survivors do not contact RCCs immediately after they are assaulted but may seek services later in life. Data on age at time of assault is collected in order to illustrate the demographics of victims as accurately as possible.

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**Massachusetts Department of Public Health Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services
List of MA Comprehensive Rape Crisis Centers 6/2003**

Elizabeth Freeman Center Sexual Assault Program/Elizabeth Freeman 146 First Street Pittsfield MA 01201	(h) (413) 443-0089 (t) (413) 499-2425 (o) (413) 499-2425 (f) (413) 443-3016	YWCA of Greater Lawrence YWCA Sexual Assault Program 38 Lawrence Street Lawrence MA 01840	(h) (877) 509-9922 (t) (978) 686-8840 (o) (978) 687-0331 (f) (978) 691-5286
New England Learning Center for Women in Transition Sexual Assault Program/NELCWIT 10 Park Street Greenfield MA 01301	(h) (413) 772-0806 (t) (413) 772-0806 (o) (413) 772-0871 (f) (413) 772-2743	A Safe Place A Safe Place/Sexual Assault Program 24 Amelia Drive Nantucket MA 02554	(h) (508) 228-2111 (t) (508) 228-7095 (o) (508) 228-0561 (f) (508) 228-8825
University of Massachusetts - Amherst Everywoman's Center, Wilder Hall 221 Stockbridge Road UMass Amherst MA 01003	(h) (413) 545-0800 (t) (413) 545-0800 (o) (413) 545-0883 (f) (413) 577-0163	Greater New Bedford Women's Center GNBWC Rape Crisis Program 252 County Street New Bedford MA 02740	(h) (508) 999-6636 (t) (508) 996-1177 (o) (508) 996-3343 (f) (508) 999-7139
YWCA of Western MA YWCA Rape Crisis/Springfield 120 Maple Street Springfield MA 01103	(h) (800) 796-8711 (t) (413) 733-7100 (o) (413) 732-3121 (f) (413) 747-0542	Health Care of Southeastern MA Womansplace/HCSEMA P.O. Box 4206 Brockton MA 02303	(h) (508) 588-8255 (t) (508) 894-2869 (o) (508) 580-3964 (f) (508) 588-0034
YWCA of Western MA YWCA Rape Crisis/Westfield P.O. Box 1835 Westfield MA 01086	(h) (800) 479-6245 (t) (800) 479-6245 (o) (413) 562-5739 (f) (413) 572-0386	Independence House Cape Cod RCC/Ind. House 160 Basset Lane Hyannis MA 02601	(h) (800) 439-6507 (t) (508) 771-6782 (o) (508) 771-6507 (f) (508) 778-0143
Rape Crisis Center of Central MA RCCCM/Worcester 799 West Boylston St. Worcester MA 01606	(h) (800) 870-5905 (t) (508) 852-7600 (o) (508) 852-7600 (f) (508) 852-7870	Martha's Vineyard Community Services Women's Support Services of MVCS Box 369 Vineyard Haven MA 02568	(h) (508) 696-7233 (t) (508) 693-3843 (o) (508) 693-7900 (f) (508) 693-7192
Rape Crisis Center of Central MA RCCCM/Fitchburg 275 Nichols Road Fitchburg MA 01420	(h) (800) 870-5905 (t) (508) 852-7600 (o) (978) 343-5683 (f) (508) 852-7870	New Hope Sexual Assault Program/New Hope 21 Park Street Suite 201 Attleboro MA 02703	(h) (800) 323-4673 (t) (800) 323-4673 (o) (508) 226-4588 (f) (508) 226-8114
Wayside Trauma Intervention Services Valley Rape Crisis Program/Milford 10 Asylum Street Milford MA 01757	(h) (800) 511-5070 (t) (508) 478-4205 (o) (508) 478-6888 (f) (508) 478-9042	Stanley St. Treatment & Resources SSTAR/Women's Center 386 Stanley Street Fall River MA 02720	(h) (877) 301-4357 (t) (508) 673-3328 (o) (508) 679-5222 (f) (508) 673-3182
SMOC Voices Against Violence/SMOC 300 Howard Street Framingham MA 01702	(h) (800) 593-1125 (t) (508) 626-8686 (o) (508) 820-0834 (f) (508) 872-4264	Boston Area Rape Crisis Center BARCC/Boston 321 Columbus Avenue Boston MA 02116	(h) (800) 841-8371 (t) (617) 492-6434 (o) (617) 399-4821 (f)
Wayside Trauma Intervention Services Valley Rape Crisis Program/Marlboro 31 Main Street Marlboro MA 01752	(h) (800) 511-5070 (t) (508) 478-4205 (o) (508) 478-6888 (f) (508) 460-6993	Boston Area Rape Crisis Center BARCC/Cambridge 99 Bishop Allen Drive Cambridge MA 02139	(h) (800) 841-8371 (t) (617) 492-6434 (o) (617) 492-8306 (f) (617) 492-3291
Health and Education Services North Shore RCC/HES 156 Cabot Street Beverly MA 01915	(h) (800) 922-8772 (t) (978) 921-8729 (o) (978) 927-4506 (f) (978) 927-4507	Jane Doe: MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault Jane Doe, Inc. 14 Beacon St., Suite 507 Boston MA 02108	(h) no hotline (t) (617) 263-2200 (o) (617) 248-0922 (f) (617) 248-0902
Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell RCSGL 144 Merrimack Street Suite 304 Lowell MA 01852	(h) (800) 542-5212 (t) (978) 452-8723 (o) (978) 452-7721 (f) (978) 458-2822	Rape Crisis Center of Central MA Llamanos Statewide Spanish Hotline 799 West Boylston St. Worcester MA 01606	(h) (800) 223-5001 (t) (508) 852-7600 (o) (508) 852-7600 (f) (508) 852-7870

h=Hotline, t=TTY/TDD, o=Office, f=Fax
For more information see: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/sapss/>